

Susan Gerard

Director
Arizona Department of Health Services



Susan Gerard was appointed Director of the Arizona Department of Health Services on April 29, 2005. As state Health Director, she oversees one of the largest departments in Arizona State Government, with a budget of more than \$1.8 billion and a workforce of more than 2,200 employees. The Arizona Department of Health Services is the state's lead public health agency, responsible for protecting, maintaining and improving the health of all Arizonans. The Department operates programs in behavioral health, disease prevention and control, health promotion, community public health, environmental health, maternal and child health, emergency medical services and preparedness, and regulation of child care and assisted living centers, nursing homes, hospitals, and other health care providers. The Department also operates the State Hospital and Lab.

Under Susan's direction, the Department is taking a leadership role in assuring Arizona is ready to respond to public health emergencies, whether caused by nature or by humans.

The Department is also maintaining Arizona's leadership in combating preventable causes of death and disability.

She also is a leader in tobacco control, and is overseeing implementation of the Smoke-Free Arizona Act, the new statewide law which requires indoor public areas, including restaurants, bars and workplaces, to be smoke free.

Susan is leading efforts to improve Arizona's mental health system, providing hope for recovery to all residents with serious mental illness.

Susan previously served as a member of Governor Janet Napolitano's Administration as a Policy Advisor for health care issues, assisting with crucial decisions involving state and federal budgets of nearly \$8.1 billion directly linked to health care.

Susan has given years of her time to the benefit Arizona. Susan served in the Arizona Legislature from 1988 to 2002, chairing the health committee for 10 years and earning recognition as a statewide leader on health issues.

Susan is a graduate of Drake University and received her MBA from Arizona State University. She has been married to Phil Gerard, an attorney, for 34 years. They have two grown children who are self-sufficient and gainfully employed!